

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S ☒

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Date: 29 March 1978 By: 027

CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Turkey

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO

SUBJECT Statements of Maugras Concerning Russian Church in Paris; Possible Restoration of Soviet Chapel in Istanbul

DIST. 28 February 1947

PAGES 25X1A2g

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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1. Upon his arrival in Istanbul on 2 January, Gaston Maugras, French Ambassador in Ankara, immediately sent for one of the lay members of the Phanar and indignantly explained that Louis Lagarde, French Consul General, by interfering with the ecclesiastical affairs of the Phanar, had acted entirely on his own initiative, without any official or private instructions from Paris or Ankara. He also stated that he had been completely unaware of the matter until Pericles Skeferis, Greek Ambassador to Turkey, had approached him on behalf of the Patriarchate.
2. Maugras pointed out that such unimportant religious questions as the residence or jurisdiction of spiritual leaders abroad was a matter of complete indifference to his government, since the residence of the spiritual leader of all French Catholics is in Rome.
3. Maugras' parting words to the Phanar representative were to the effect that, as far as the Quai d'Orsay is concerned, his government is just as interested in having the Russian Orthodox Church in Paris under the jurisdiction of London as having the Buddhists in Paris depending on Dalai-Lama of Tibet.

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Comment: The above confirms suspicions that Lagarde was probably acting upon instructions from Gribiakov, Soviet Consul General in Istanbul.

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Comment: distributed on 22 January and 14 February 1947 respectively, which are concerned with Lagarde's activities in connection with the controversy over the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church in Paris.

4. It is believed that in the near future orders may be received from Moscow to restore the chapel of the Soviet Consulate General in Istanbul and to reopen it to the public, as has been done in the case of the chapel of the Soviet Embassy in Vienna. The latter was completely restored, a Metropolitan coming especially from Moscow for the inauguration, which was attended by high ranking Soviet Army officers.

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